CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for parameterizing software process signal connections between control modules and/or input/output modules of a drive unit, comprising the steps of:

assigning to each module a connector type selected from the group consisting of signal sink and signal source;

assigning to each signal source a module-specific signal source identification parameter, which includes a signal ID and a parameter number;

assigning to each signal sink a module-specific signal sink identification parameter and a parameterizable connection parameter; and

for connecting a process signal between a signal source and a corresponding signal sink, entering as the parameterizable connection parameter of the signal sink the parameter number of the signal source identification parameter.

2. The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of coding the signal source identification parameter and/or the signal sink identification parameter with a letter code that indicates if the connector type represents a signal source or a signal sink.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the parameter number is coded in form of a number code.

4. A method for parameterizing software process signal connections between control modules and/or input/output modules of a drive unit, comprising the steps of:

assigning to each module a connector type selected from the group consisting of signal sink and signal source, and a module-specific index number;

assigning to each signal source a signal source identification parameter which includes a signal ID and a parameter number;

assigning to each signal sink a signal sink identification parameter and a parameterizable connection parameter; and

for connecting a process signal between a signal source and a signal sink, entering as the parameterizable connection parameter of the associated signal sink the parameter number of the associated signal source identification parameter and the module-specific index number of the signal source module.

5. The method according to claim 4, and further comprising the step of coding the signal source identification parameter and/or the signal sink identification parameter with a letter code that indicates if the connector type represents a signal source or a signal sink.

6. The method according to claim 4, wherein the parameter number is coded in form of a number code.

7. A drive unit for controlling and/or regulating drives of machine tools or production machines, comprising:

a plurality of control modules and/or input/output modules, each module having a connector for connecting the module to another one of the modules, with a connector having associated therewith a connector type selected from the group consisting of signal sink and signal source; and

a physical connection capable transmitting a process signal between a signal source and a signal sink,

wherein each signal source comprises a module-specific signal source identification parameter, which includes a signal ID and a parameter number,

wherein each signal sink comprises a module-specific signal sink identification parameter and a parameterizable connection parameter, and

wherein the parameterizable connection parameter of the signal sink comprises the parameter number of the signal source identification parameter.

8. A drive unit for controlling and/or regulating drives of machine tools or production machines, comprising:

a plurality of control modules and/or input/output modules, each module having a connector for connecting the module to another one of the modules, with a connector having associated therewith a connector type selected from the group consisting of signal sink and signal source, as well as a module-specific index number; and

a physical connection capable transmitting a process signal between a signal source and a signal sink,

wherein each signal source comprises a module-specific signal source identification parameter, which includes a signal ID and a parameter number,

wherein each signal sink comprises a module-specific signal sink identification parameter and a parameterizable connection parameter, and

wherein the parameterizable connection parameter of the associated signal sink comprises the parameter number of the associated signal source identification parameter and the module-specific index number of the signal-generating module.